

# "Building Our Sense of Community"

# Shelton State Courier

—Campus Newspaper—

New Series Vol. 2, Number 15

Shelton State Community College

Oct. 28-Nov. 10, 1998

## Sandra Ray in the middle of Shelton success story



**Three Shelton Amigos** Many people have worked hard to help Shelton State thrive. Three who have been especially successful in their efforts have been Shelton President Tom Umphrey (L), Shelton benefactor A.H. Bean, and Alabama School Board member Sandra Ray.

Photo by Melissa Dover

By James A. Crawford II

On November 3rd, the re-election of Sandra Ray in District 7 of the State School Board could very well help decide the direction of Shelton's immediate future.

Sandra Ray, of Tuscaloosa, is running for re-election as State Board representative of district 7, which encompasses eleven counties including Bibb, Colbert, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale,

Lawrence, Marion, Walker, Winston and Tuscaloosa.

The re-election will be for a two-year term under the State Board's staggered-term structure.

As a representative of the State School Board, Ray is involved in decisions regarding K-12 schools and all two-year colleges statewide, including Tuscaloosa's Shelton State.

Ray's history with Shelton State has been a long one. She had once served on the college's Foundation Board and currently serves on the board of directors for The-

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*Sheltoniana Which Can Be Found Nowhere Else*

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## Becky Avery crowned Queen of Shelton's first Homecoming

By Tameka Taylor

On Oct. 26, many students took part in Shelton's first ever Homecoming.

The activities kicked off in the atrium with the introduction of the homecoming queen nominees.

The five finalist were Jodi Chandler, Jennifer Green, Alicia Wiggins, April Adams and Becky Avery.

Lucy Kubiszyn, chair of the Homecoming committee said, "I am pleased with the response from the student body in terms of their willingness to enter the contest and to vote for the finalists."

The homecoming events mark the one-year anniversary of

the dedication of the Martin Campus.

A "Shoot Around" between the different clubs and organizations was held in the gym that was won, surprisingly, by the Administration team composed of Ronald Range, Student Services dean Humphrey Lee, and Assistant to the President Rick Rogers.

This rousing event was followed by the Silver Creek Band who performed at outside near the west parking lot.

A bonfire sponsored by the Alumni Association brightened the night for the students as they

Homecoming cont'd on pg. 3



Rebecca Avery was named Shelton's first Homecoming Queen on Nov. 26.

Photo by Melissa Dover

## New Bean-Brown turns 'em out for Lady

The new theatre for the college and Theatre Tuscaloosa opened to its premier performance on Oct. 16. More than the capacity of 444 people showed up to catch the historic performance. It was a smashing success.

Perhaps the greatest star of the show was the clockwork operation of the theatre itself. The lavish sets glided silently over the spacious stage, and huge backdrops soared and dipped in the blink of an eye.

Perhaps the most impressive moment was in the closing scene of the show. Professor Higgins, played ably by Jim Merrell, walked disconsolantly to his door on Wimpole Street. As he paused to go inside, the theatre grew dark for just a moment. In a flash, the interior set of Higgins' home appeared and he went inside.

This was the kind of technical and visual wizardry that Theatre Tuscaloosa Executive Producer Paul Looney promised and

the Bean-Brown facility effortlessly delivered.

The cast was a delight from top to bottom, with special honors going to the singing of Beth Stomps as Eliza Doolittle and to the acting, dancing, singing and stage presence of Paul Crook as Alfred P. Doolittle.

Performances will vary at the new theatre down Hwy. 69, but the facility itself should be an enduring star. Watch for your chance to see a great performance.



## Shelton Singers presented concert of international music during Homecoming

Celebrating their first concert in the new Bean-Brown Theatre of the Fine Arts Center at Shelton State, the Shelton Singers presented a program of international music on Tuesday night, Oct. 27. All proceeds from admission at the door go towards the Shelton State Singers' spring tour.

The Shelton Singers are a 45-voice concert choir from the Shelton State Community College Music Department. Under the direction of Glinda Blackshear, the choir has won numerous awards and has performed in concerts from Salt Lake City to New York City.

Accompanying the choir on the keyboard was Debbie Baird.

The international music concert featured choral music from the Renaissance through the Twentieth Century, including selections sung in English, Hebrew, French and German, as well as in Jamaican and West African dialects.

The concert concluded with the Coronation Scene from the opera Boris Godunov, by Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky, sung in English.

## Shelton adds education course

The Office of Postsecondary Education recently notified Shelton that the college's request to add a new course, Exploring Education, to its academic inventory list was approved.

According to Shelton President Tom Umphrey, the request for the two-hour course was made "because of the growing interest in education as a discipline and field of employment."

**On Nov. 13, representatives from Auburn University and the Alabama Extension Service will be at Shelton for a workshop, "Improving Workplace Performance through Wellness" led by Shelton Wellness Director Dr. Milady Murphy.**

## Dewayne Freeman looks like the pro-education candidate in the Lt. Governor's race

Sometimes in an election choices can be very difficult. And often when that is the case it is because the candidates have made it hard on themselves for anybody to vote for them.

That seemed at first to be the case in the Lt. Gov.'s race in Alabama. Both sides have seemed to do some things that are aggravating to the potential voter.

## Opinion

### '98 in the State

There have been frightening charges and countercharges in the press. Both Dewayne Freeman and Steve Windom seem to have rejected the high road.

All we know is that Dewayne Freeman has been a proven friend of Shelton State, helping to secure funding for the new campus while serving in the senate as a elected official from the Huntsville area.

You never know that the future will bring, but Freeman says that he will continue to fight cuts in higher education in this state. And that is good enough for us.

The main reason that people in higher education seem to be choosing the Don Siegelman campaign over Fob James's is that they see there needs to be a real change in the approach to higher education in Alabama for this state to succeed in the economy we are facing in the new millennium.

If you are in college or work in higher education, or appreciate what education can do for you, we think you need to vote for Freeman.

## The college finally sells its 15th Street campus

It took a while, but Shelton State is now about \$4 million better off than it was prior to the sale of its 15th Street campus to Home Depot.

The State Board of Education agreed Oct. 22 to let the 40-acres and buildings go for a few hundred thousand below what the college originally hoped to receive.

Sandra Ray, representative of the School Board who lives in Tuscaloosa, said she was happy about the deal, not only for the

revenue it produced for Shelton, but because the buyer promises to be a boon to the Tuscaloosa area. "It was a good deal. Home Depot is a good thing to have in the middle of our community," said Ray.

The inability of the College's real estate representatives to find ready buyers of both the 15th St. and Skyland campuses reportedly caused a financial disturbance to Shelton's balance sheet last year. The college issued bonds to pay off its construction costs for the new campus. The proceeds from the

sales of the old campuses are earmarked for the retirements of the bond debt.

Home Depot plans to demolish the existing buildings on the 15th St. campus, but would not immediately reveal its plans for the entire site.

In July, the State Board of Education approved the Skyland sale to Cornerstone Ministries for \$2.35 million in a lease-purchase agreement.

Home Depot has 120 days to do required tests and close the deal.

**The Public Health Department will give flu and pneumonia shots in the Wellness Center from 10 a.m. until noon on Nov. 3.**

## Future Issues

The *Courier* looks forward to 15 more issues this school year: one more in October, two each in November, February, March and April; one each month is scheduled for December, January, May, June, July and August. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278.

## Clips are what count!

If you are majoring in any of the mass communication fields (journalism, advertising, broadcast & film, etc.) you should know that experience is what counts. No matter what your intended field is, you can get the experience you need to get a job by working on *The Shelton State Courier*, a professional newspaper about the college and its surrounding community.

**Students may wish to participate in the following positions:**

- copy/news editor
- sports writers
- photographers
- artists, designers, and cartoonists
- columnists
- circulation/marketing

Get the experience you need for the job you really want.

Call 391-2278, if you have something to contribute to your *Courier*.

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### Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression and all students

are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.



**Home cont'd from pg. 1**

eagerly wait for the queen to be crowned.

The queen was crowned by Mrs. Umphrey. She was elected by popular demand from the student body.

Rick Rogers, assistant to the president, said, "I am very excited about homecoming and I hope this will become a tradition for our students, employees and alumni to enjoy each year."

The jazz band performed "Jazz in the Atrium" at 1 p.m. on Tuesday. A reception and reunion of current and former Phi Theta Kappa members and Ambassadors was held in the cafeteria at 6 p.m.

The new Bean-Brown Theatre hosted the International Music concert beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, the children from the Child Development Center will be trick-or-treating through-

out the school at 10 a.m.

A luncheon for the retirees and employees at 12:30 p.m. on the third floor will wrap up Shelton's first homecoming activities.

Shelton President Tom Umphrey commented before the festivities that some might find it odd that Shelton will not coincide Homecoming activities with a sporting event. "Football games are great, but we feel strongly about relationships at Shelton. Having our people here, especially some of our graduates back will be what makes the day special."

From the music to the introduction of the sports teams in the gym to the cheers of the new cheerleading squad, the Shelton tradition of Homecoming seemed to be off to a strong start.

"I think at our school the current students are into Homecoming as much as anybody, and that's gratifying to see," commented Student Dean Humphrey Lee.



Vying to be the first Homecoming Queen at Shelton State were (L-R front) Jodi Chandler and April Adams; (top) Alicia Wiggins, Becky Avery and Jennifer Green

**Ray cont'd from pg. 1**

atre Tuscaloosa and was instrumental in obtaining the funds for completing the new Bean-Brown Theatre at Shelton State.

Tom Umphrey, President of Shelton State Community College recalls Ray's many years of work at Shelton. "Sandra Ray has been a wonderful friend to our college for many years. Prior to her service with the Alabama State Board of Education, she served on our Foundation Board helping to raise money for scholarships."

Although Ray is well known at Shelton, she has also made an impact in other areas of her district.

At Bevill State in Fayette county, her initiatives helped bring about the implementation of the Distance Learning Program which brought the college classroom to remote high schools in the county to help them gain access to better technology and improve teaching methods.

"The distance learning program is a wonderful opportunity for the community colleges to link with the high schools in their immediate area. It's something that I would like to see happen everywhere," said Ray.

Ray has some high goals set for the upcoming year to help get the school system

prepared for the imminently approaching year 2000.

"We plan to continue monitoring classes in terms of size and needs and we would like to see better work force development in our community colleges. The opportunity exists to help business and industry with training and also with advisor groups," says Ray.

Ray's work at the high school level has been no less impressive. She voted in favor of smaller classes and the strongest high school graduation requirements in the United States.

"We have long needed to have more co-operation between the two-year colleges and high schools in getting students ready for the demands of the work force. Tougher standards and higher expectations are just one of the ways we can continue to make this progress happen," says Ray.

Ray has a long tradition of support for our county schools. She was an elected member and also chairman of Tuscaloosa County Board of Education and a member of the State Textbook committee.

Ray's support of Shelton State has been enduring. "I've always been impressed with Shelton's administration. The community college has to be responsive to the community and I think Shelton has done a good job with that," says Ray.

Her support and confidence with the college is so great that when she was a member of the foundation board she co-signed a loan for the college to build the fire college. "It was a scary time, but everything worked out," says Ray.

With the upcoming millennium, strong leadership with the foresight to do innovative things will be needed to help Alabama continue to grow. According to Ray education is a prereq-

uisite for that growth. Ray's plans to increase funding and support for the continued education programs and to help further integrate two and four-year colleges through better transfer programs will create a more consistent atmosphere of learning for everyone.

Ray cont'd on pg. 5



Sandra Ray's love for children can be seen in her state-wide work with the school board and in the twinkle in her eye when she holds Abby, one of her grandchildren

Photo by Melissa Dover

## Who Says That You Can't Stretch A Dollar Far?

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**Off to Another Great Start** The Shelton State golf team got off to another great start this year with a win in the Eagle Invitational in Meridia, Miss. in early October. Making us all proud on the links this year are (L-R bottom) Jeff Yokel, Jason Dillard, Matt Malone and Danny Germaine; (Top) Coach Jim Collins, Drew Jones, Jeremy Orton, Chris Jones and Chad Meeks



**Cultural Confab**—One of the student groups that have gotten themselves reorganized and active since the move to the new campus is the African-American Cultural Association. Planning holiday activities and other campus involvement are (L-R) Antiwonette Dunnican, Marcus Osborne (public relations officer), Perrin Mobley, Vernon L. Scott Jr, Melissa Elliott (vice president), Amekia Garrett (secretary), Shakita Howard (treasurer), Kristyn Robinson (president), Staffani Clemons, Angela Edwards, Traci Bies (public relations), Demetrius Benison and David Jordan

# Blood Drive in November



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## 1999 Miss Shelton State Scholarship Pageant

### Need Scholarship Money?

Any young lady who is interested in earning possible scholarship money should enter the 1999 Miss Shelton State contest. Interested young ladies may contact Mrs. Lisa Matherson in the Financial Aid Office or by phone at 391-3903 for further information. The pageant will be held Jan. 16.

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**Shelton Program Anyone Could Dig...** Responding to a need in the local construction industry, Shelton has founded a heavy equipment technical program. To help get things moving, the Governor's office contributed \$30,000. On hand to mark the inception were (L-R) Roy Pugh, instructor; Roland Pugh, construction businessman and Shelton benefactor; Shelton President Thomas E. Umphrey; Governor's Liaison officer Quentin Riggins and Bryant Melton, director of the Fredd campus where the program will be headquartered



## The Scene...

By Kevin Drummond

### It's the Blues, baby, at 4th and 23rd

Every bar in Tuscaloosa has its own distinctions. With so many places to go, where can you find the music you like?

If you are looking for jazz, blues, or blue grass, the "blues club" at 4th and 23rd is the destination you seek.

The bar was a college dream for four guys: Rick Barfield, Brent Davidson, Randall Davidson and Josh Jones. All graduates of the University of Alabama, the four wanted to hang together after college and open their own business.

The idea was put on a shelf for a couple of years while all of the would-be partners finished school.

Eventually they searched all across town, and they finally agreed on the location downtown on 4th and 23rd Ave. It was one of the larger spots available, and finding it was a big step.

"It was not easy, even after we found it," said Randy Davidson. "The only thing we had to work with were the brick walls."

The building that houses the establish-

ment has been in existence since the early 1900's. It is rumored to have been owned by a prominent Tuscaloosa family that used it for opium distribution and prostitution. But that is a tale we are still checking out.

When the re-construction started about a year ago, everything that is now inside had to be bought and installed. Now it has oak tables and chairs and a beautiful long, oak bar stretching from the front wall to the back.

Blues are usually served, but you can hear jazz at 4th and 23rd on Tuesday nights. Some blue grass will be offered, but it is predominantly blues throughout the week and into the weekend.

Tuesday night is Harley Davidson night. You will find several bikes out front then, with most built by the legendary motorcycle firm.

Next spring, around April, the owners plan to block off the street and put on a bike show. The plans are not finalized, but the show will include barbecue bands playing blues. "It should be a big success, and we hope it will turn into an annual event," said Randy Davidson.

The bar is a good mix of college students and the older crowd until 11 p.m.—when the college students seem to take over.

But the proprietors say everyone over 21 is welcome. The number to find out who is playing is 349-3642.

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### Ray cont'd from pg. 5

Another effort at the high school level has been the program called Dual Enrollment. In Dual Enrollment, the high school students in eleventh and twelfth grades can take classes at a community college and have them count as credit at both their high school and towards a two-year Associate degree at the community college. "The dual enrollment program creates unlimited opportunity for students to advance themselves in many more ways than ever before," says Ray.

According to Ray, the community colleges fill many roles within the communities they serve. They offer a second chance to students who may not be able to attend the

bigger institutions. They can provide training for industries in situations where the demand is only short-term and on short notice and they are invaluable in recruiting new industry to the area.

"Community colleges play a big part in getting new jobs. The close proximity to community colleges helped Mercedes choose to locate here in Tuscaloosa and Boeing to locate in North Alabama, because the two-year colleges have the capacity to teach the skills that these industries need on short notice," says Ray.

With bright ideas and solid business sense, Ray's future and Shelton's own future looks to be bright one.

With a casting of the ballots that future will begin on Nov. 3.



Sandra Ray recently participated in a program to honor Shelton State benefactors. She thanked Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Hester for their support with a sketch of the new campus.

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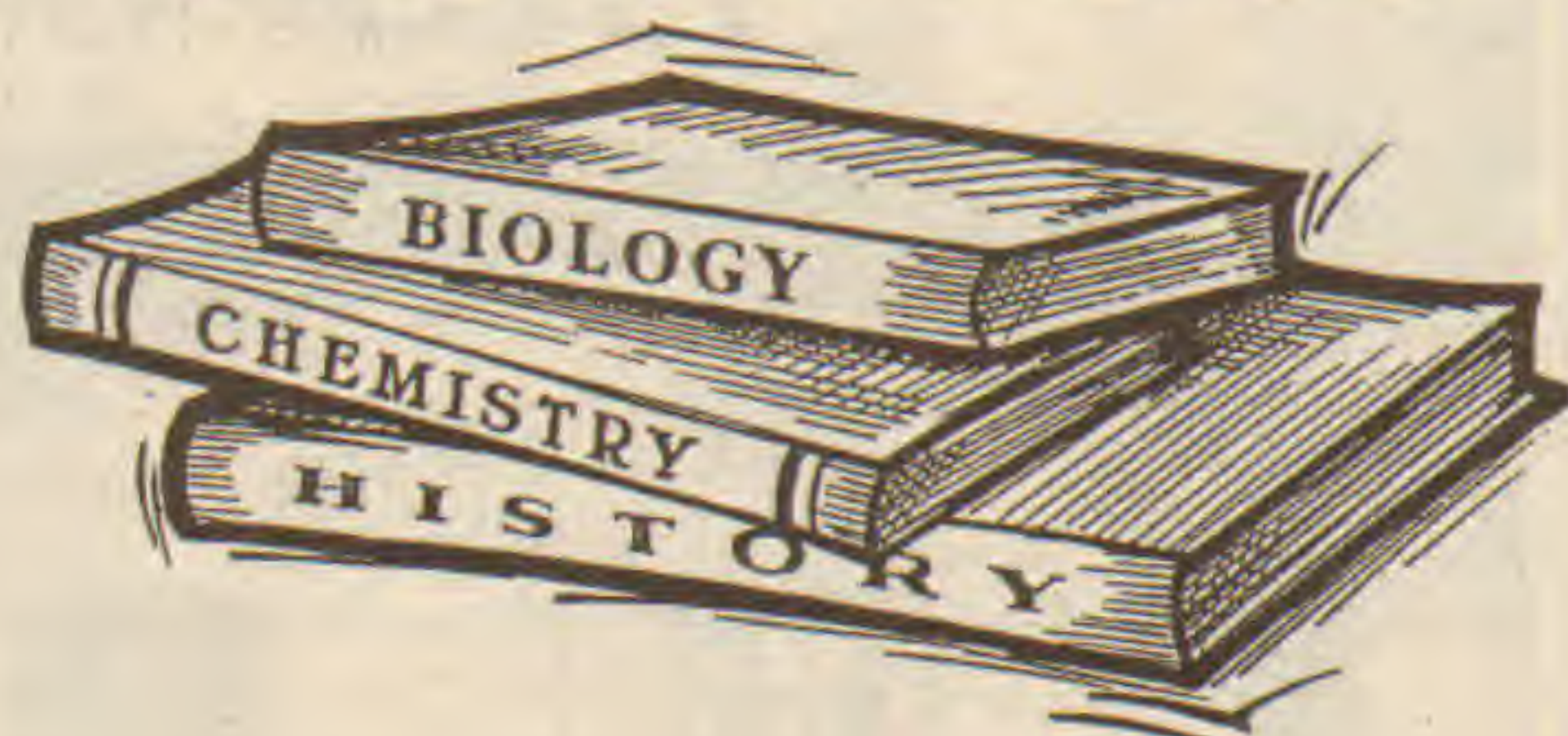
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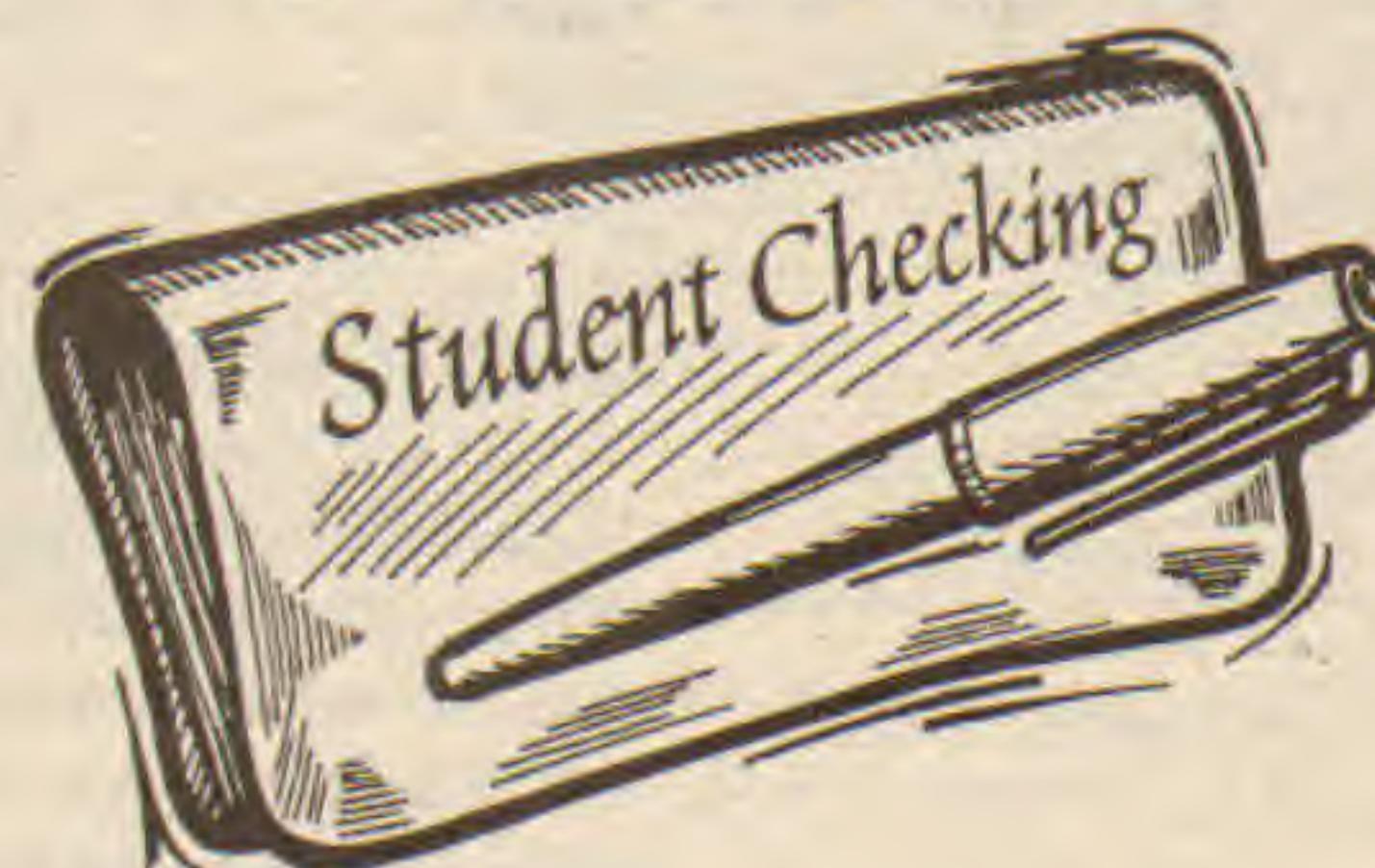
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Phi Theta Kappa meets weekly in one of the rooms near the Food Court in the Shelton atrium



Academic Honorary Phi Theta Kappa socializes and brainstorms about things they can do for service projects in their weekly meetings. Talking about a reading project in a recent meeting were are (L-R) Heather Malone, Mark Moore, Terri Holland, David Steele, Lee Ann Jones, advisor Tracy Branch, advisor Brenda Ryan, Alicia Wiggins (unseen) and Jennifer Greene

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## BULLETIN BOARD

The academic scholarship committee has a few scholarships available for the Spring semester. Pick up applications in the Dean of Students Office.

Minimum requirements for a scholarship are

- completed 15 semester hours At Shelton by the end of fall, '98
- 3.0 QPA
- must have completed college-level Math and English course
- must submit an essay with completed application
- deadline is Dec. 11

In the past, the average QPA for these scholarships has been a 3.5.

Recipients will be required to take 15 hours during the Spring semester. The Committee will make its decision by Jan. 5. Any recipient who has already registered will be reimbursed for 15 hours.

The public transportation people of Tuscaloosa county have hired a consulting firm from South Carolina to study the needs and possibilities of mass transit in this area. The public transportation consultants have met with Shelton administrators and are looking at the possibility of running the bus line out Hwy. 69 to the college. A report from the consulting firm will take several months.

The college is planning two STAR days for orientation for incoming students for the spring semester. STAR (student test-interpretation, advising and registration Days) are designed to get new students squared away for their new academic experience.

Besides getting them in school, the freshmen have the chance to sample campus organizations—such as the *Courier*, to see how they might want to participate in college life.

**The upcoming STAR Days are Nov. 19 and Jan. 5.**

New students are entertained by some campus talent, they participate in a scavenger hunt, they have a chance to ask questions—and most importantly of all, they have a chance to not be the last people to register for the next semester.

## Food Court "Interactive Newspaper" Corner

**Turn off your TV sets once in a while and tell some stories about yourselves**

How do you know who you are?

That sounds like a simple question. Even a dumb one. But think about it.

In this day and age of *Information*, when we can and do tune into the world at large so much of the time—through radio and television and the Internet and movies—is it a simple matter to know who we are without these things?

We are not one of the gang on *Friends* or *Seinfeld* or *Cheers*. No matter how much we would like to be. When you think of it, moreover, we are probably a little unhappier in our lives right now because we fail to measure up to the snappy, sexy, ultimately successful lives we experience vicariously on TV. Our lives seem boring much of the time, too full of work and worry—and not necessarily in that order.

I heard somebody just the other day who had something meaningful to say on this subject: Kathryn Tucker Windham, the author and storyteller.

Most native Alabamians may know who she is through her ghost books geared for children and featuring her "own" ghost named Jeffrey. But as she said repeatedly during her storytelling sessions at Kentuck last week, it is the very art of storytelling itself and the encouragement of its practice that she is really most interested in. And for the most simple and profound of reasons: stories keep ourselves in touch with the real us.

I loved it during one of her stories when she said, "I had this aunt who was crazy... We all have crazy people in our

families who are different, a little crazy." I guess a good storyteller can't always follow the niceties of political correctness. But we need that sort of straight talk once in a while to remind us that we all are full of human failings and crazy ideas.

Ms. Windham told about going to a facility for juveniles up north, as part of a booking of the arts, to tell some stories. The director of the place said she could expect about a dozen kids. But then 165 turned up. Eventually she had them wrapped in her palms as she told them stories she heard from her daddy who was born in Alabama in 1865. When it was over, Windham said a dozen came up to her and said that no one had ever told them stories before.

To Kathryn Tucker Windham the lesson was obvious: *We need stories about ourselves to know who we are.*

She didn't come out and say it, but I think her point is that people are less likely to get into trouble, to become violent or depressed or disruptive, if they have the pressure and knowledge of generations behind them who have successfully negotiated the rapid waters of life and lived long enough to tell about it.

Southerners have long been famous as storytellers, but I'm afraid some of the art is being lost because we have an electronic box that can do it for us. TV tells great stories; that's for sure. But it doesn't tell us great stories about ourselves.

—Jim Kenny

**Presented by the Sodexo-Marriott Food Court off the Atrium at Shelton State Community College**



Good things are always getting cooked up in the Food Court at Shelton State, thanks to the ingenuity and initiative of its manager, Rafic. In October he had several barbecue cookouts served outdoors.

For a run-down of the day's menu, call the menu hotline at 391-2336. Writers of the selected editorials receive free lunch at the Shelton Food Court. Please submit responses or editorials to the new *Courier* office on the west wing of the second floor.

Off-campus submissions are welcome.  
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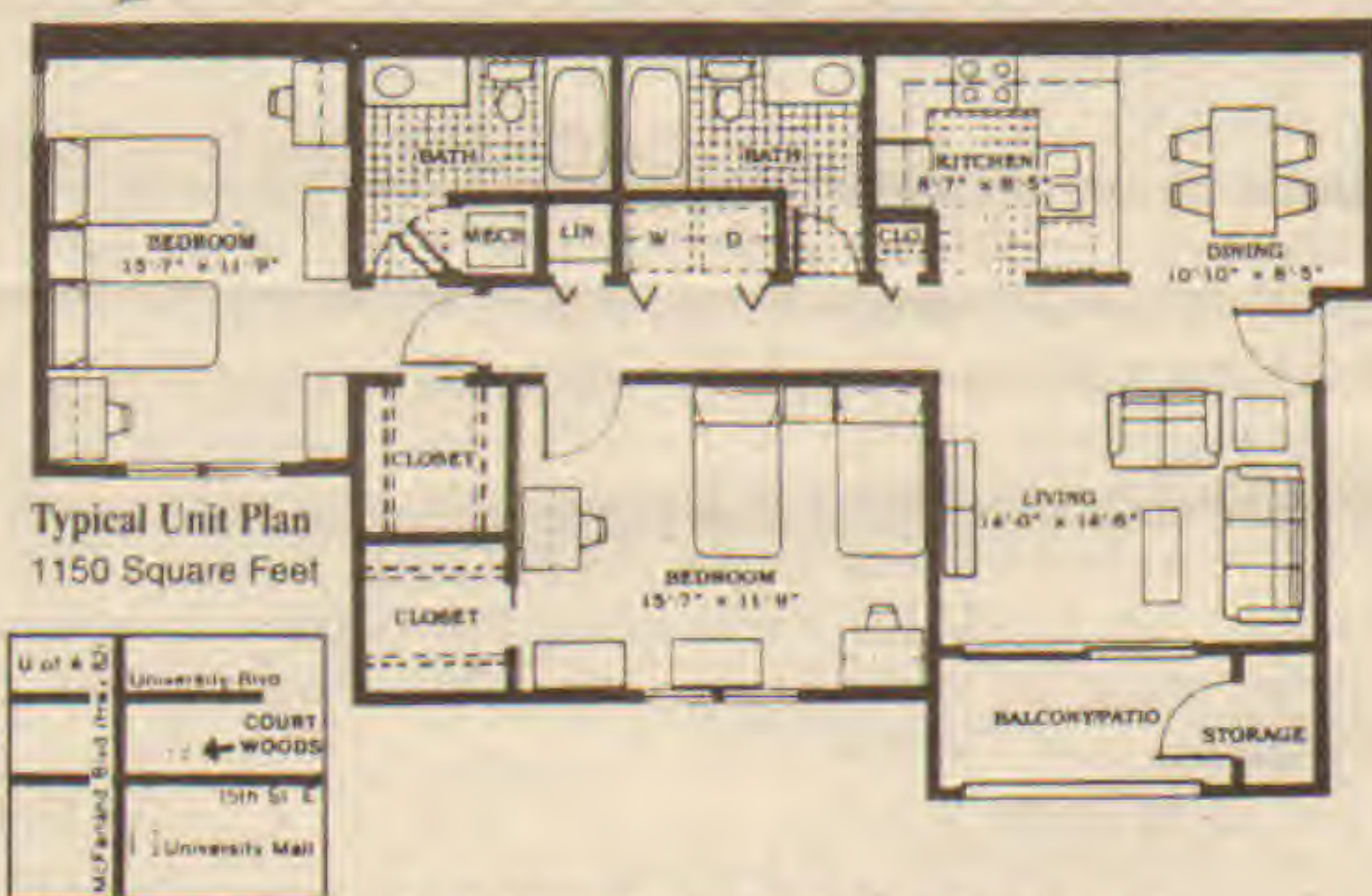
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### COURT WOODS

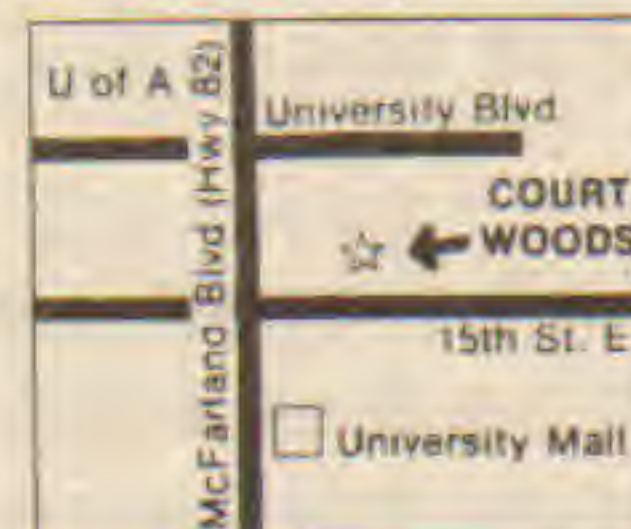
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